Creating an Integrated Vision for Transboundary Sustainability Using a Georgia Basin–Puget Sound Simulation Tool

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Abstracts

As part of the Georgia Basin Futures Project, a computer simulation game- Georgia Basin QUEST - has been developed to assist stakeholders to visualize future conditions that may result from choices they make today. The simulation embodies expert understanding of how complex ecological, social and economic systems work. It is proving to be a valuable tool to involve a wide variety of individuals and groups in the pursuit of sustainability. Results achieved to date are summarized in this paper.

Because sustainable development of the region is inevitably affected by activities on both sides of the border, and particularly by those actions that have a transboundary consequence, there is a clear need to consider sustainability from a comprehensive geographic perspective. Stakeholders on both sides of the border are concerned about urbanization, trade and economic development, natural resources management, and a host of other issues. There is presently no effective mechanism to allow both Puget Sound and Georgia Basin stakeholders to identify common concerns or areas of consensus that can be developed into sustainability strategies. Thus we propose the development of a common, transboundary vision of a sustainable future for the entire region by extending the Georgia Basin simulation tool to encompass the watersheds and urbanizing areas of Puget Sound. This paper describes a process to accomplish that objective and invites the participation of interested institutions.